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C.I.A. SAIGON AIDE REPORTED CALLED TO SEE PRESIDENT

'Consultations' Are Given
as Reason—Official May
Not Return to Post

MOVE SOUGHT BY LODGE

McNamara Said to Support
Envoy's Proposal That
Replacement Be Sent

By MAX FRANKEL

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4. President Kennedy was reported today to have recalled "for consultations" the head of Central Intelligence Agency operations in South Vietnam, presumably to end his policy dispute with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge. Persons familiar with State Department operations in Saigon confirmed reports from there that Ambassador Lodge had requested the replacement of the C. I. A. chief, John H. Richardson. They expressed doubt that Mr. Richardson would be sent back to Saigon. Mr. Lodge's appeal for a new intelligence agent with new instructions was said to have been conveyed to the President by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. The Secretary, who visited Vietnam with Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is believed to have endorsed the request.

Lodge Proposes New Role

The Ambassador apparently complained that his own position as head of the American mission in Vietnam was inconsistent with the separate operations of his intelligence chief. He was said to feel that a new man should be appointed and instructed to confine himself to the gathering and analysis of intelligence information.

Mr. Richardson, according to reports from Saigon, not only gathered information but worked closely on operational matters with Ngo Dinh Nhu, the brother and most influential adviser of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

Mr. Lodge's objections were said to center on Mr. Richardson's conception of his job, not on his performance as such. Reports of a clash of personalities or insubordination have been denied here.

To some extent the policy differences are part of a larger dispute among different American agencies and officials here and in Vietnam. Broadly, these differences have arisen from different views about the attitudes that should be displayed toward repressive measures by the Saigon regime.

Some argue that nothing must be done to undermine the war against Communist-led guerrillas; others believe the

war cannot be won unless Ngo Dinh Diem and his family are forced into political reforms.

The intelligence agency has tended to believe in the closest possible cooperation with the Saigon Government. Ambassador Lodge and many officials in the State Department have at times favored a tougher stance toward Saigon's policies.

Views of War Affected

Because of these policy differences, different factions have tended to send back different estimates of the military situation. After hearing a report from Mr. McNamara and General Taylor, President Kennedy this week said the serious political situation in South Vietnam had not yet significantly affected the military effort, but could do so in the future.

Mr. Lodge is said to have warned of these future effects. Other officials at the scene, including Gen. Paul D. Harkins, military commander of American forces in Vietnam, continue to insist that the war was going reasonably well.

Sources here refused to give any information about the John Richardson who has been identified in news dispatches from Saigon as chief of the intelligence unit.

Richardson a First Secretary

The Government's biographic register of officials serving overseas lists a John Hammond Richardson as First Secretary and special assistant to the Ambassador in the United States Embassy in Saigon. That Mr. Richardson was born to American parents in Rangoon, Burma, in 1913, and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

His record lists service overseas with the Army in World War II and as a political officer in the War Department after the war. Other reports have said he really served with the Office of Strategic Services, predecessor of the C.I.A.

Since the war, the Mr. Richardson listed in the register has held various diplomatic and consular positions in Vienna, with the Department of Defense in Washington, in Athens and Manila. He has been in Saigon since April, 1962.